



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH USING COMPUTER ACCESS TO PROMOTE PROSTITUTION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a federal employee in Kansas City, Mo., was charged in federal court today with illegally using her computer access at the Department of Health and Human Services to promote her own unlawful prostitution business.

Candice G. Smith, 44, of Blue Springs, Mo., was charged in a criminal complaint filed this morning in U.S. District Court in Kansas City.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Smith** made unauthorized and illegal inquiries into the LexisNexis database that is available to her as a payment recovery specialist for the Center for Medicaid Services (an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services). LexisNexis is a data collection company that provides a database, such as credit history and driver's license information, to certain private and government agencies provided certain conditions are met. For example, it is permissible for a government agency to query LexisNexis for law enforcement purposes.

Smith, who has allegedly been working as a prostitute, made LexisNexis inquiries for personal reasons even though she knew that it was prohibited to do so, and she used the information to aid her in avoiding arrest and prosecution for her prostitution activities, according to the affidavit.

Smith allegedly queried LexisNexis for criminal history and other information relating to a prostitute she believed to be cooperating with law enforcement officers, a sergeant with the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, and others.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and

not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Valenti. It was investigated by the Department of Health and Human Service - Office of Inspector General, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Protective Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow